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BLACK ROCK Highland Fling SMALL

IGA Road project gets underway

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

After a number of years on the books, Minden Hills township began work on the long-awaited reconstruction of Bobcaygeon Road last week.

The project, which is a complete reconstruction of the thoroughfare connecting Bobcaygeon Road to what is now Dollo's Foodland, has been included in the township's draft budget for years, often deferred at budget time as council looks to mitigate property tax increases.

Minden Hills councillors decided during an April meeting that the project would proceed in 2020. Restrictions in place from the provincial government amid the COVID-19 pandemic at that time meant that only infrastructure projects considered "critical" could proceed.

"Some of the concerns I have, is that some of these things, I feel, yes, they've been that way for a long time, but I still consider them critical," Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said of a list of projects during an April 30 meeting. "IGA Road may have looked the way it does

see CONSTRUCTION page 2



Fanfare for fifth Minden Pride

Some of the public came showing their colours to support this year's rainbow flag raising to kick off the fifth annual Minden Pride Week on Monday, Aug. 24 at the Minden Hills township building. See more photos on page 3. /DARREN LUM Staff

Highland Storm hockey to return

Association working on preparing plan for OMHA approval

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Highland Storm president Jason Morissette is asking the public to remember the impor-

tance of sport for what it can do for young people, as the hockey association works on a plan to return with measures to reduce risk of the coronavirus for players, coaches and volunteers.

"Kids need an outlet. They need to have

access to things that are fun and healthy. It's good for their physical health, but I think it's more important even for their mental health, right? A lot of our local kids have been quite cooped up and, you know, they haven't been

see MODIFIED page 11



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Construction project deferred for years

from page 1

for many years, but that doesn't make it any less worthy to be fixed."

The township awarded the job – worth \$410,000 with a contingency of \$36,000 – to Four Brothers Construction. Work got underway on Aug. 19 and is expected to take four to six weeks to complete. The township has advised that residents should expect delays, partial lane closures and restricted access during that time.

News of the project getting underway was welcome to Minden residents.

"About time," one reader wrote on the *Minden Times* Facebook page.

"Finally!" wrote another. "This needed to be done ages ago."



The reconstruction of IGA Road is expected to take four to six weeks. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

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Brewery brings the bucks

Olivia Daechsel, left, and Ryan Shotbolt of Boshkung Brewing Co. present Tina Jackson and Ken Mott of the Central Food Network with a cheque for \$3,000. Half the amount was raised from sales of Boshkung's Hometown Hero brew, a collaboration with NHL star Matt Duchene, and half was donated by the brewery's owners. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

Updated: Aug. 24, 2020 – 2:00 pm

This is the cumulative data on confirmed COVID-19 cases in the HKPR District Health Unit area.

	Haliburton	City of Kawartha Lakes	Northumberland	HKPRDHU
Confirmed Cases	15	177	31	223
Current Probable Cases+	0	0	0	0
Current High Risk Contacts+	0	1	3	4
Hospitalizations (Total to Date)	1	11	2	14
Resolved**	15	157	30	202
Deaths	0	32	0	32
Current Outbreaks	0	0	0	0

COVID-19 cumulative data

As of Aug. 24, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County that have not been resolved, and no current high-risk contacts. High-risk contacts are defined as asymptomatic individuals who are known to have been in contact with a confirmed or probable case. This information is updated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, excluding holidays by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. Positive COVID-19 tests conducted in Haliburton County on residents with a primary address outside of Haliburton County are recorded in the health unit of that address. /Screenshot from the HKPR District Health Unit website at hkpr.on.ca.



The rainbow flag is flying, raised on Aug. 24 to kick off the fifth annual Minden Pride Week.



In rainbows

Minden Pride chairperson David Rankin raises the rainbow flag to kick off the fifth annual Minden Pride Week on Monday, Aug. 24 at the Minden Hills township building. This event kicked off a week of activities, both virtual and in-person such as an online trivia night, dance party and scavenger hunt, and multi-faith service. See the website (www.mindenpride.ca/events-2020/) for a schedule of events and activities. /DARREN LUM Staff



Right, movie goes Adrienne Patterson, left, Bob Fisher, and Kim Hird showed off their fans at Minden Pride's free drive-in movie night event before the start of the feature film *Pariah*, including the short, *Trevor* on Tuesday, Aug. 25 at the Little Pit Drive-In at Abbey Gardens. There were door prizes for the best decorated pride vehicle. /DARREN LUM Staff



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be conducted virtually via web conference; and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

Meetings are held virtually, starting at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council office, 7 Milne Street. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

August 27 – Regular Council Meeting

September 10 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one meeting a month in July, August and December.

During this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our community is of paramount importance. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.minden hills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.minden hills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

BACK TO SCHOOL AND FIRE SAFETY

When going back to school and with so much going on, it can be easy to forget about priority safety measures like fire safety guidelines.

Now is a good time for a refresher on this effortlessly simple idea, fire safety starts with you and is important every day. Take a look below for a few simple tips on fire safety, then pass them onto the student in your life!

1. Get out and Stay Out - if you see a fire, see smoke or hear the fire alarm you need to leave the building, closing the doors behind you.
2. If smoke is affecting your breathing, remember that smoke rises, this is when you should get low and crawl when evacuating the building.
3. Leave your belonging behind - don't spend time looking for items, sacrificing any time can be dangerous, your priority is to leave the building.
4. If in the classroom, line up quickly and follow your teacher, if not in class, exit the building and then find your class and teacher, stay with your class at all times and be present during roll call and head counts.
5. Always keep calm - A calm response to emergencies is always smart—in and out of school, and in every kind of emergency. Staying calm will help even large families or groups of students get out safely without missing important steps.
6. Get to know the emergency exits – know the best route to take in case of an emergency at home or in school and know where to meet your family or class once safely outside.

Students, parents, and everyone in-between, can benefit from these fire safety tips. We hope that they help make the school season ahead a safer one!

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

The next Household Hazardous Waste collection event is **Saturday, September 5, 2020** at the Scotch Line Landfill from 8am to 11:30am. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for a list of accepted items.



Reopening schools safely matters to everyone

That's why the government of Ontario has worked with health officials, school boards and educators to develop a comprehensive plan to keep kids and staff safe.

- **Physical distancing** measures will be implemented such as desk separation, signs, floor markings and one-way hallways.
- **Face coverings** will be required for staff and students in Grades 4-12.
- **Hand hygiene** will be enabled with hand sanitizer and hand washing.
- **More nurses** will be in schools.
- **School cleaning** will be enhanced.



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AMO conference goes online

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

“

... it's not the same as being there in person, especially for networking.

— ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
MAYOR CAROL MOFFATT

”

The annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference took place last week, and like so many events in 2020, the conference, which normally brings together municipal leaders and provincial representatives for three days of workshops, seminars, meetings and speeches, happened in a virtual fashion.

“As a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus I was able to attend a number of key Zoom meetings,” Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen wrote in an email to the Echo. “The EOWC presented briefing notes to a multi-ministerial forum detailing plans to work with the province on our top four priorities; those being a one-gigabyte broadband project that will not only improve circumstances in poorly served or uncovered areas, but prepare Haliburton County for a generation to come; plans for the economic recovery of Eastern Ontario from the losses that have impacted us all during the pandemic as well as the financial recovery of municipalities; and finally, to improve at every level delivery of service and improved infrastructure for long term care homes in the area. The caucus also met and outlined these same priorities to the NDP as the official Opposition. Both groups were extremely supportive of the work of the EOWC and our submissions, and acknowledged the EOWC's proven track record of working with the province.”

Danielsen indicated she found the online nature of this year's conference to be a bit of a challenge.

“I had initially planned to sit through the sessions of the AMO conference in real time, as if I was actually in attendance,” Danielsen wrote. “Unfortunately, because I'm actually not there, my calendar quickly got filled with other meetings via Zoom of no less importance, and in some cases, related to conference activities. I'm thankful that all of the material from both the plenary and break-out sessions are available to those who registered for the conference for the next month and look forward to looking at sessions of interest. I have heard reports that, all things considered, the conference organizers were able to deliver an excellent alternative to the standard conference setting.”

Similarly, Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts and Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt told the paper they preferred an in-person conference to the virtual one that took place this year amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“I find conferences tremendously valuable and I work very hard at them,” Moffatt wrote in an email. “AMO did a wonderful job of moving it all online and while I appreciate many of the aspects of the virtual conference, it's

not the same as being there in person, especially for networking. The sessions are available online for 30 days so I will go back and watch the ones I missed.”

While Moffatt said she'd blocked the time in her calendar to “attend” the conference virtually, meetings ended up being booked in the interim, “which disrupted the focus needed to stay in the conference ‘groove’, as it were. For me, it doesn't work to pop in and out of the conference.”

Roberts agreed, sharing similar sentiments.

“I did not attend as much as I would have liked to, meetings ended up getting booked last week so it was really hard to attend live,” she wrote. “The sessions will be up for 30 days after so I am hoping to find the time to view more online later. I have to say it isn't the same at all. Part of going to a conference is the mixing and mingling that happens in the halls, at breakfast or lunch, and at the sessions. I also enjoy seeing my county colleagues outside of work, it's always nice to be social together. I think AMO did the best in the situation, nothing they could have done differently.”

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin opted not to “attend” this year's conference because of the virtual format. While a regular attendee of both the annual AMO and Rural Ontario Municipal Association conferences, Devolin also said that physically being at conferences and being able to network with representatives from upper levels of government is a big part of those events for him. He also noted that normally the township requests delegations with minister regarding certain requests, and that in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the township really had no such specific request. He said he still planned to take in some of the online sessions.

Moffatt and Danielsen both pointed out that a silver lining to the virtual conference was that local municipalities saved some money in terms of travel and accommodation expenses for councillors.

Restaurants assisting with contact tracing

by **CHAD INGRAM**
Times Staff

Since Aug. 7, local eateries have been required to record the names and contact information of all customers for the purposes of contact tracing amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Communications from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reads that, “all premises that serve food and drink are required to record the name and contact information of every patron who enters an indoor or outdoor dining area, keep those records for a period of at least one month and only disclose these records to the health unit (eg. medical officer of health or public health inspector) on request. These records are a key piece of information to support the health unit in contact tracing of positive cases of COVID-19, which is a crucial step in limiting spread of the virus and keeping our communities safe.”

Shawn Chamberlin, who owns Minden’s Dominion Hotel, told the *Times* his staff has been recording the information required by the health unit, but indicated that getting that information has been a challenge in some instances.

“We are supporting all measures to control the outbreak of COVID-19,” Chamberlin wrote in an email to the paper. “The safety of our customers and our staff is very important to us and staff is working very hard to keep

the Dominion Hotel as safe as possible for our guests.”

Terri Mathews-Carl co-owns Carnarvon’s Rhubarb restaurant, along with Boshkung Brewing Co., and also indicated that in some instances, it’s been challenging to get contact information from patrons.

“For the most part people are happy to do what is asked,” Mathews-Carl wrote in an email. “We do get a push back still from some people not understanding why we need all names, and not just one per table. We are still getting people attempting to enter the restaurant without masks. I have had to send people back to cars and cottages to retrieve them.”

Since the restaurant is operating at about 50 per cent capacity, Mathews-Carl said tables are reserved quickly, with typically no day-of availability.

“Again, most people are understanding but

“

For the most part people are happy to do what is asked.

— **TERRI MATHEWS-CARL**
RHUBARB RESTAURANT

”

there are some who are frustrated about this,” she wrote. “I think that people are a little less patient these days and a little less kind when things don’t go as planned. Our staff are doing their best to give great service while wearing masks for six-to-10 hour shifts and are being very careful about safety measures. We are happy to be able to welcome back guests and feel like things are normal again.”

Meanwhile, in Haliburton Village, the Vargas family who operate the Mega Munch Breakfast and Lunch food truck, decided that the requirement for recording names and contact information would mean the establishment would offer take-out food only.

“Although our indoor seating/washroom

area has been closed since the beginning of this pandemic, we have decided to remove our picnic tables in light of this requirement,” they wrote in a Facebook post. “This is not an ideal situation and it saddens us to do it, however, this seems to be the only sensible option. We regret any inconvenience to our customers, however we will now be strictly take-out. Thank you to everyone for your continued support through these challenging times.”

As of Aug. 24, there had been 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County since the beginning of the pandemic, all of them considered resolved.

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Politics in a pandemic

IT'S BEEN a busy week or so on the federal political stage, with a series of events that bring to question whether federal politicians might send Canadians to the polls in the midst of a pandemic.

Amid the backdrop of the WE scandal, now-former-finance-minister Bill Morneau announced his abrupt resignation on Aug. 17, for reasons supposedly unrelated to the scandal. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau then announced his intention to prorogue Parliament until late September. Prorogation means the end of a parliamentary session and the opportunity for the government to set a new agenda with a speech from the throne. In this case, it also means that committee probing of the WE scandal has conveniently stopped.

Earlier this week, voting members of the Conservative Party of Canada chose a new leader for their party. Erin O'Toole, MP for Durham for the past eight years, is now the leader of the Opposition, replacing ousted leader Andrew Scheer and beating out prominent competitor Peter MacKay, who was former leader of the Canadian PC party and a high-ranking cabinet minister in the Harper government.

A throne speech is always a non-confidence vote, which can make one an ideal time to topple a minority government. Trudeau is in a compromised position with the WE scandal swirling around him and in normal times, it might make sense to use the opportunity of a speech from the throne to trigger an election.

However, these are of course not normal times. It's possible that the triggering of an election may backfire, with Canadians unhappy they are being asked to vote in the midst of the stress of the pandemic. It would certainly create a headache for Elections Canada, which would need to engineer a system to ensure Canadians could cast their votes safely.

While some have been critical of Trudeau's handling of the pandemic – and with Morneau's resignation, there are more and more questions about the sustainability of the billions in dollars of aid going out the door – crises can sometimes also be good for leaders, good for their optics. Ontario Premier Doug Ford, for example, has seen record approval ratings

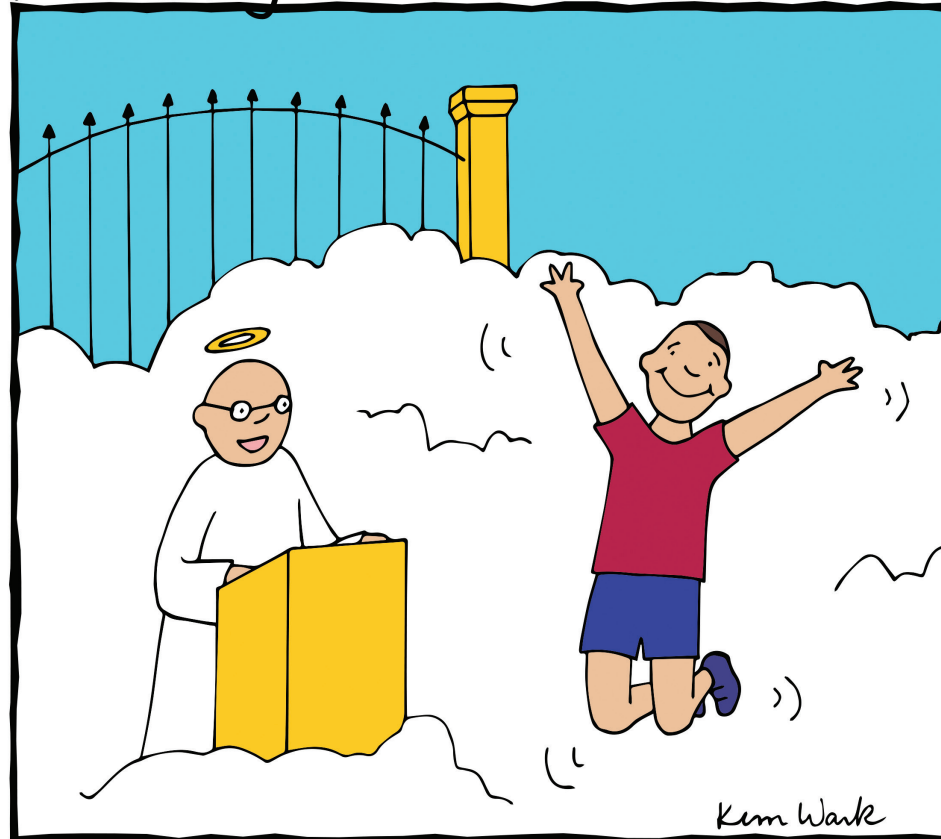
**CHAD INGRAM**
Reporter

during the pandemic, as many Ontarians seem to agree that he's been doing a good job of steering the province through a troublesome time.

Certainly, at the beginning of the pandemic, we saw the regular jabs and jousts between this country's two main parties stop for a period. Partisan rhetoric vanished as MPs approved billions of dollars in aid to anxious Canadians on the precipice of a terrifying time. With the beast of the pandemic now somewhat tamed, those days are gone, the full theatre of federal politics returning.

As for whether Canadians will be sent to the polls during a pandemic, much like with the trajectory of the pandemic itself, we'll have to wait and see.

Kwarky

*"It's true: no more burpees."*

Rope

THERE IS AN old saying that purports if you give a guilty person enough rope they will hang themselves. Thankfully, this has never applied to any outdoors enthusiast – mostly because for an outdoors enthusiast, there is no such thing as enough rope. Or, if they are telling you a fish story, guilt.

The typical outdoorsman owns a great variety of ropes and collects more as the years progress. These include anchor ropes, tarp ropes, game hanging ropes, canoe tying ropes, boat ropes, pulley ropes, dog ropes, tree stand ropes, pack ropes, dock ropes, camp ropes, general purpose ropes, towing ropes, and ropes for dragging ice fishing sleds or for hanging food caches, just to name a few.

We collect ropes the way some people collect postage stamps.

Furthermore, we will gladly use thick rope and thin rope, and ropes of all designs, twists, braids and materials. So long as it is a rope, we are in. Outdoorsmen love rope.

Despite this, in my house, Jenn frequently points out, "You have way too much rope." And I tell her it will come in handy one day – which causes her to laugh hysterically.

This is also to say that Jenn has no clear understanding of rope – nor the outdoorsman's sacred responsibility towards it.

I would venture to say, if not for outdoorswomen and men, there would be no rope industry at all. This would make for a very different world. One in which cartoon villains would have to duct tape the damsel in distress to the railway tracks. And no one wants that.

Yet, despite our affinity for it, rope is, at the same time, an outdoors enthusiast's best friend and worst enemy.

It is the former, because, if you give an outdoorsman enough rope, he or she will spend the rest of the day untangling it. It is the latter for the exact same reason.

The nature of this relationship doesn't really enter into it, however. You see, we outdoorsy types cannot resist picking up and feeling the heft of a good rope. We have no choice. An appreciation of rope is basically in our DNA.

That is because, from an incredibly young age, we are taught that rope is an essential part of every outdoors trip – especially if you forgot your belt. Among its many important

uses are the role they play in creating a clothesline around camp for people to walk into and for its pivotal part in the trip hazard formed between tents and tent pegs. Also, they come in handy when you need to restrain the person that has discovered both.

Equally important, without ropes we could not practice tying the knots that we can rely upon in the outdoors right up

until we need them most. For instance, when we are tying off our rope belts.

Ropes also play an integral part in a secret fantasy every outdoorsman harbours. Of course, I'm talking about the deep-seated desire to pull off a dramatic rescue using nothing but the rope we happen to be carrying.

Needless to say, if you are only carrying three feet of rope, the drama suffers substantially.

Why the rescue fantasy?

This is not because every outdoorsman wants to be a hero. No, it is more like he wants to be able to look into a news television camera and tell the reporter, "My wife frequently complains I have too much rope, but I told her it would come in handy one day..."

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

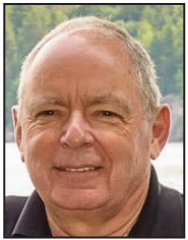
Columns and Letters to the Editor

An autumn for getting serious

AUTUMN IS A time for action. The animals of the forest know that, and supposedly so do we humans. But the animals are much smarter. They see signs – fading leaves, cooler mornings, shorter days – and they jump into work preparing for the challenges ahead.

They gather food to ensure they will have fat and energy to get them through to spring. They haul in denning and nesting materials as protection against the killing cold.

They do whatever is needed to meet the challenges to themselves and their young.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

We humans see signs but spend more time talking about what should be done, instead of actually doing it.

An example: Last week the Prime Minister said we have “an unprecedented opportunity” to build a better Canada. He didn’t say, as he shut down Parliament, what he thinks is “better,” nor how we might achieve that, or when.

It was yet another example of political yip yapping, devoid of any specific action, or even plans for specific action. The Prime Minister isn’t the only one talking the talk and walking the walk unaccompanied by real action. Politicians of all political stripes are guilty.

This autumn, the official start which is only days away, might be considered one of the most important in modern history. That’s because it is possible, even likely, that the next year is not going to be better.

Sorry to be so pessimistic, but take a moment to reflect on today’s world. Although you might not see it when you step into your back yard, our world is increasingly seriously threatened by the two Big Fs – fire and flood.

Recent scientific reports predict that parts of the world, especially coastal areas, will experience catastrophic flooding in the near future. The European Environment Agency has reported that flooding increased significantly between 1980 and 2010 and will get worse. It predicts that European flood losses will increase five-fold by 2050.

While parts of the world fight flooding, others are burning uncontrollably. In the last year fires have burned 11 million hectares of Australia, killing almost three dozen people and burning more than 2,000 homes.

As I write, large parts of California, and British Columbia, are on fire. (One part of my family is sitting with bags packed as smoke seeps into their home on the outskirts of San Francisco).

The main factor in these fire and floods is climate change. The world is getting warmer – scientists say the northern hemisphere is the warmest it has been in 1,000 years.

Researchers have said that the amount of shrinking of the Arctic ice cap last year was shocking, and likely the biggest loss of ice in centuries.

Greenhouse gases, natural and human caused, are the main contributors to climate change. In recent history, human activity has been the largest.

The fires and floods caused by climate change are not simply individual, isolated events. They create other problems – more extreme weather events, more disease, severe economic strains, political upheaval and cultural clashes.

Research indicates that if you are disturbed by this year’s COVID-19 pandemic, wait until you see the next 10 to 50 years. Upheavals caused by climate change are expected to cause more epidemics and pandemics. Major viral outbreaks are no longer once-every-100-years events.

Politicians around the world, but particularly in North America, have to stop talking the talk and take immediate action against these threats. They have to get serious and get their constituents serious as well.

What’s required is a massive citizen mobilization and communication effort similar to what was seen during the Second World War.

People need to be convinced that the future is threatened and everyone needs to work together to eliminate, or at least lessen, the threats.

It’s not that we all need to start buying electric cars immediately. It’s not that we must shut down polluting industries today.

But we need everyone to become aware of the threats and start accepting life styles that have less impact on the environment. Governments and politicians are the ones to get us all working together.

If politicians – Liberal, Conservative or whatever – can replace talking the talk with real action, Canada next year might not be any better, but it certainly won’t be any worse.

Cortisone shots

UP UNTIL ALMOST two months ago I had never had a cortisone shot in my life. Given my level of activity over the years I am both grateful and proud of that fact. Then it happened. I ended up with trigger thumb on my right hand. It seems moving to the country and splitting wood all winter aggravated the tendon responsible for bending my thumb.

It’s the top joint of my thumb. At first I noticed it catching or popping. It’s a really weird sensation that you don’t want to experience. I tried to resolve it myself using Dr. Google. When that didn’t work I booked physiotherapy treatments. They were interrupted by COVID-19. As soon as I could I went to back physiotherapy and we worked away at relieving the inflammation of the tendon and getting rid of the nodule that had formed due to the overuse. After a number of weeks we hit a plateau so it was off to a doctor who specializes in hand injuries. The first step in the treatment of trigger thumb (and trigger fingers) is a cortisone injection. The injection has helped. All of the pain has subsided but the joint in my thumb is still popping. The next step is to have another shot. I’m due for that in September.

Cortisone is an anti-inflammatory agent that is injected into a specific area of the body. The idea is that it precisely targets the area in need of pain relief. It is

most commonly used in joints like knees, ankles, hips, shoulders, wrists and it’s even used in the spine. In my case it went into the tendon sheath at the base of the thumb. For some people it can cure the problem all together. The pain and the popping/catching goes away completely.

For some the relief is felt in a day. That didn’t happen for me. It took a couple of weeks before the pain went away. Since then I’ve gotten more movement in the joint. Prior to having the shot I couldn’t bend that part of my thumb. That’s another weird sensation that you don’t want to experience.

I find it fascinating that a little bit of inflammation can

completely alter the function of a joint. I find it equally as fascinating that an injection can make it all better. Still, cortisone is not a miracle drug. There are risks in using it, such as cartilage damage, nerve damage and joint inflections. That’s why its use is limited to three to four times per year. Once again, it’s best to keep all of our body parts in good working order by finding the balance between moving them enough but not too much.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness

letters to the editor

Act of kindness

To the Editor,

Last week I was running on Twelve Mile Lake Road. It was hot and humid and I had forgotten my water bottle. A car pulled up and the woman driving handed me a cold bottle of water. She had

passed me earlier and realized that I was struggling. How very kind of her! This reinforces my belief that this is the best place in Canada to live.

Jane Boyd
Minden Hills



This heron was spending some time fishing at the Minden Whitewater Preserve. /KAREN LONDON Staff



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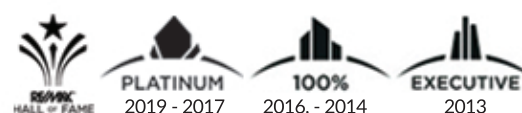
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Concern over full buses, classrooms raised at TLDSB meeting

by JENN WATT
Editor

Trillium Lakelands District School Board will use money from its reserves for health and safety including reducing class size in certain situations, but there will be situations, such as on full buses, when physical distancing will be difficult to achieve, trustees heard at their board meeting on Aug. 18.

Wes Hahn, director of education, gave an update on back to school plans for September, including funding decisions from the Ministry of Education to address coronavirus precautions. Among them, the announcement that boards could use two per cent of their reserve funds.

"We are obviously looking at using [those funds] for everything we can around health and safety with regards to whether it be physical distancing or reducing class size in certain situations," Hahn said.

"The budget that we have, it's sufficient enough to do some things, but it certainly isn't going to lower class size in all the places that we wanted to do, but we will come up with a very detailed plan around the use of that reserve funding and we will definitely make sure that we bring that forward," he said.

The ministry also allocated \$309 million to school boards with funding earmarked for personal protective equipment and enhanced cleaning. Hahn said additional funding had been made available for ventilation in schools.

"On top of our regular maintenance of our ventilation systems ... we are looking at things like filter changes, HEPA filters, air flushing, as immediate things that we can do to improve air quality," he said.

Signage is being installed at all public buildings to ensure everyone maintains physical distancing recommendations while inside. Enhanced cleaning is planned throughout the day.

"The passion and the commitment to making this work within the building is really outstanding," Hahn said of the custodial staff. "So I want to thank them for all the work that they did over the summer and what they've been doing to get us ready for our first day."

As of Tuesday, about 15 per cent of students at TLDSB had opted for remote learning with 92 per cent of families responding

to the board's re-registration request. About 1,600 elementary students and 530 secondary students across the whole board will be taking part in remote learning.

Parents were asked to make their intentions known to the board so that planning for classrooms and bus routes could take place.

"Our remote learning will ... be a virtual school that we will staff. ... We are receiving additional funding for that kind of staffing," Hahn said.

An outbreak protocol is still in the works for "symptom management and assessment and all the procedures that will deal with how we will go about dealing with symptoms that arise, if they do," he said.

In order to get students and staff used to the new way of doing things, the first week will have a staggered start, splitting the classes in half with one group coming two days and the other group coming the other two.

"It'll give teachers and staff a chance to review routines and really get the classroom and the routines set up prior to having everyone back. We think that's a good way of doing it. And certainly we'll be ready to move into our second week, hopefully with those routines in place and everyone feeling good about that," Hahn said.

Vice-chair David Morrison questioned how physical distancing would be maintained with 85 per cent of students opting to return to the brick-and-mortar school buildings and getting on buses together.

"Social distancing is pretty difficult with 25 kids in the classroom, that's a reality," Morrison said.

Hahn said the money from the ministry would be used quickly. "We're going to be looking at those hotspots or areas that we're going to require additional attention, whether it be staffing or extra custodial staff," he said.

Superintendent of business Tim Ellis said busing challenges were plentiful and planning would focus on keeping cohorts of students together and employing masks to help lower the risk when students could not be two metres apart.

"The challenge around transportation is that we can't really do a whole lot about physical distancing in terms of capacity, when you look at the whole sector, not just TLDSB in terms of transportation, driver shortages are common. The ability to purchase buses is a bit of an issue when you think a bus costs upwards of \$110,000 to put

on the road," Ellis said.

Students from different schools would be picked up on the same bus in some cases.

"We're limited in options of what we can do around it beyond masking," he said. Windows could be open during warmer months to provide better ventilation and masks would be available if a child who required one did not have one.

Additional drivers is also an issue with many of them being in the 70-plus age bracket that is at highest risk if they contract the coronavirus.

Student trustee Kaylee Kelly asked several questions about what school would look like for students, including what would happen during lunch hour, a time when high school students are accustomed to either eating in the cafeteria together or leaving the building to get lunch in town.

Superintendent of learning Katherine McIver said the board was in talks with the health unit about how best to handle lunch hour.

"It's anticipated that central gathering areas like cafeterias would not be used in the traditional methods that they have in the past, simply to reduce contact between students," McIver said.

She also said driver training that includes in-building instruction would not be permitted.

Kaylee followed up with a conversation from the previous board meeting regarding school nutrition programs. Hahn had said at a past meeting that work was being done to maintain these programs, such as Food For Kids, but they would need to be modified because visitors are not allowed in school buildings.

"We want to kind of keep that open to gr-

“

Social distancing is pretty difficult with 25 kids in the classroom, that's a reality.

— TLDSB VICE-CHAIR DAVID MORRISON

”

ab-and-go [food] situations," Hahn replied. "And I know we have a couple of our senior team looking in with our community people to keep that going. And we intend to do that."

Trays or bins of packaged food items or whole pieces of fruit will be available to students.

At the end of the meeting, trustees had a discussion about the way the ministry had rolled out the back-to-school plans. Concerns were raised by some trustees that funding was not adequate for the challenges ahead, that the ministry hadn't taken feedback from school boards, and that parents didn't realize decisions about class sizes were made by the province, not by the board. The issue of class size, full buses and physical distancing was again raised.

The trustees passed a motion that the board's chair send a letter to the provincial government, copied to other school board chairs, local MPPs and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, thanking them for their support, but also listing their frustrations.

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Zebedee Jones rides his bicycle on Chambers Road as part of the seventh annual Kids Fun Twelve Mile Lake Triathlon.



Making a splash

Teenager Olivia Humphries charges out of the water at the seventh annual Kids Fun Twelve Mile Lake Triathlon on Tuesday, Aug. 25 in Minden Hills. The annual three-discipline event, which observed COVID-19 safety precautions, included participants from toddlers to teens. All participants received a medal for their efforts. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 12

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Thomas Ward runs down Chambers Road at the 7th annual Kids Fun12 Mile Lake Triathlon.

Modified rules to mitigate physical contact

from page 1

able to see their friends or do some of the activities they would like to do,” he said.

Morissette said there is optimism and hope for the season after the Storm executive met at the annual general meeting on Monday, Aug., 17.

The Storm, like other hockey associations in the province is planning for a season using the Ontario Hockey Federation’s (OHF) Return to Hockey Phase 2 - Stage 3A plan, which uses the public health guidelines to allow players to return to play in a safe manner.

As stated online by the OMHA (Ontario Minor Hockey Association) earlier this month, “Stage 3 provides for additional hockey opportunities beyond the individual and group training that were approved in Stage 1 and 2 of the OHF Return to Hockey. It provides participants the opportunity to register in Hockey Canada programming that will include game play with rules that focus on removing deliberate and prolonged contact.”

Morissette is optimistic Stage 3 will remain in place to enable them to return to play.

“Our vision is to plan so that the season potentially could begin somewhere in early-October. So a good example is that the Greater Toronto Hockey League, they announced last week that they will not be starting their first skates until Oct. 7. Not saying anybody is in a rush here. I think what they’re doing is their due diligence to listen to the chief medical officer and then the OHF to the OMHA to say this is what we’re planning to do. They’re just trying to make it as safe as possible. Our goal right now is we formed committees amongst our executive to look at the different programming that would be designed for our local area, our local association.”

This undertaking will take considerable work to ensure the safety of everyone involved, he adds.

“The nice thing is we have time. We’re not looking to get back on the ice next week or the week after. We have time here to plan it out and see how things go. I’m sure the powers that be higher than here will look at how the whole return to school plan goes and they’ll go and base it from that and look at the medical advice they’re getting,” he said. “I do think people are going to have to make adjustments and they’re going to have to be supportive.”

Currently the Storm have 130 players registered for the season, which pleases Morissette.

Every age group is represented in this collection of registered players, but he said there will be a combination of age divisions to form cohorts. Deadline for registration is Sept. 1 to guarantee a spot on a team. Fees are not being demanded. Just a commitment to play and to help the Storm plan.

Games will take on a new look and format with this plan.

From the OMHA, games are non-contact, three-on-three. There will not be a penalty box, as there won’t be time served. However there will be a penalty shot for a minor infraction and two penalty shots, including an ejection for a major penalty.

“What they want to do is keep the game continuously playing. There’s no face-offs. For instance, it would be take a shot on the net and the goalie freezes the puck, the offensive team has to exit the zone and then the puck comes out. So a very different look to the game and the way it’s reffed is going to be different too,” he said.

With these games, he said, one referee as an official is permitted.



Also, two teams are likely to share ice and practice together. However practices will be individual at their core. There would be no “battle” drills. Up to 25 people on the ice at a time. Nine players and one goalie for a roster with two to three coaches. There will not be rep or local league hockey and there will not be any tryouts.

Although Morissette acknowledges this brand of hockey may not satiate the competitive drive of players and parents/guardians who enjoy that aspect of the game, he encourages people to come into this season with an open mind, understanding, and see it as a year of development.

“Yeah, I get that because a lot of our players and their families are very competitive people, but we have to look at it as individual skill development. Focus on your stick-handling. Focus on your shot. Focus on your edge work ... Focus on your hockey IQ because a three-on-three game – a lot of people have done studies on this. They do small ice games in Europe. Three-on-three is really, really popular. They’ve been doing that way ahead of us ... so I really looked at it that this might be an opportunity for kids to just [enjoy] a less structured game, right?” he said.

He adds this game format encourages greater stimulation, advancing skills far greater than what the five-on-five format can provide. The Storm have also stated online four-on-four is also a possibility.

Two weeks before games commence there will be practice to implement the plan.

One of the recommendations from the OMHA is to not allow anyone but players, coaches and helpers into the arena unless a player from the youngest ages (under Atom – eight to 10) needs assistance. Any player or volunteer helping must not exhibit symptoms upon entering an arena.

Another consideration in the plan is how and where players dress.

Players will likely be asked to come to the arena dressed in much of their equipment with the exception of their helmet and skates and they may lace up in a cordoned off place for them at the arena. This and other actions for the plan are part of ongoing discussions, which will include input from the three arenas in Minden, Wilberforce and Haliburton.

He said the decisions the Storm will make rest with the direction from the OMHA, which have outlined their actions on their website and is available for the public to scrutinize. It comes down to the safety of ev-

eryone involved, Morissette noted. It’s up to the Storm, he said, to minimize the risk as much as possible.

“Now we have to design a return to play plan that we must move to the OMHA for approval. So we’re at the stage now we’re just starting to design and look at those plans and we’re doing that as well with our facility providers,” he said, referring to arenas in Wilberforce, Minden (in up to five weeks) and Haliburton.

He said if the public is interested in how hockey will look they can see nearby examples such as Lindsay Recreation Complex where they have already started.

Morissette is focusing on the positive, which is being able to facilitate playing instead of trying to think of how bad things are because it isn’t like it used to be.

“We have to look at the way things are and see how we can work from there. And we have to look into the future and say, ‘There is a Phase 4 and the phase four in the program exists when there is a vaccine.’ That means we’re going to get back to where we were, but right now we have to adapt and try to overcome it.”

During the pandemic the one constant has been change. It’s difficult, he said, to know what will happen in October, but with a pending plan and a Storm executive that is working hard to get players playing again he believes in a future.

Involved with the Storm as 3a coach and executive member for the past 15 years, including a parent of a child that played, Morissette said the community can help.

He encourages parents interested in having their children playing to register sooner than later to help with organization and planning.

There are benefits to not just the players, but to parents too.

Close to an hour of play for children gives parents “a little breather too.”

He adds it’s a strong possibility that players’ parents and guardians will not be permitted to be in the arena. Although it takes away the social component, it is part of adapting this season.

Unlike other years, the \$100 registration fee for first-time players is not likely to be available Morissette said. This is owed to the potential of added costs from the COVID-19 plan, less revenue due to current registration numbers, no plans to host tournaments and no sponsorship, which was a deliberate decision to provide a “reprieve” to the business

After an annual general meeting last week, it’s been decided that the Highland Storm will proceed with a hockey season, with special rules and protocols in place amid the COVID-19 pandemic. /DARREN Lum Staff

community facing hardship.

He said the Storm has always tried to keep fees as low as possible, which ensures access to hockey to as many players as possible. However, he hopes it will be available for the future.

Looking out for businesses in the community is a long term outlook.

“We’ve had long partnerships with our sponsors and we hope that will help, but we also hope that in the future when we hopefully get back to more normal of a situation they’ll be there for us,” he said.

The Storm has looked at applying for government funding to help with the loss of revenue. Despite the reduction in revenue this season, he said, the Storm is healthy financially and has a surplus of money.

He wants to focus on the positive and hopes parents and guardians will do the same.

“We’re going to need adult cooperation, support. We’re going to need them to be flexible. We’re going to need them to be open-minded. We’re really going to need them to show their kids that it’s important to reflect on the things that you may have taken for granted before and I think this is a really good time to look at that and say, ‘Listen, if you get the opportunity to get back on that ice and people are trying to make it safe for you, maybe, really appreciate it ... I think when things get back to the way they were, I think everybody’s going to have a new zest for activities, including hockey that they just were not able to do,” he said. “I think we take things for granted. I certainly look at it that way.”

This effort will not just rely on the Storm executive, who continue and have worked very hard to this point to start a season. It needs members of the community, particularly individuals with certifications in coaching and training, including new people to volunteer with teams to support the coaches or to help screen players entering the arena. Interested individuals can contact Ron Hall at rlrhall@hotmail.com.

Like a great hockey team, the implementation of the plan to have a season will need everyone involved to make it work.

“And isn’t that what this sport is all about? Like, we’re going to need that and I’m very hopeful we can do that. I have a really long history in Haliburton County [in] the sport of ice hockey. It’s a very long history of success and fun and community spirit,” he said.



VDO tournament turns 10

Golfer Scott Neilson watches his drive off the tee from the first hole at the 10th annual Volunteer Dental Outreach Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday, Aug. 20 at the Blairhampton Golf Club in Minden Hills.



A golfer drives the ball off the tee during the 10th annual Volunteer Dental Outreach Charity Golf Tournament. The fundraiser included 112 golfers, who played a round of 18, were given breakfast and a pizza lunch by Into the Blue Bakery, and could also contribute to the cause through the online auction, which featured 20 items. The event observed COVID-19 safety protocols. The VDO provides free urgent dental care for low income residents of Haliburton County./DARREN LUM Staff

Volunteer Curtis Eastmure prepares a breakfast sandwich for a participant in the tournament.



NOTICE - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice. We thank the public for their understanding as we work toward keeping our community safe and healthy in this uncertain time.

TAKE NOTICE that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 9:00 AM conducted electronically via web conference.

The purpose of the Special Meeting will be for Council to continue its discussions related to Short Term Rentals, within the Township, as part of the Zoning By-law review.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Special Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 26th day of August, 2020.
Dawn Newhook
Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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Puzzle me this

Local artist Wendy Wood autographs a box with a 504-piece puzzle featuring her painting *Heaven on the Hangdog Channel*, which is visible as a print beside and above her, during the puzzle's release event on Friday, Aug. 21 at The Occurrence's Puzzle Factory in Haliburton. The puzzle was the company's first in a Canadian Artist Series./DARREN LUM Staff

Stay alert, HHHS CEO urges

Haliburton County has been in Stage 3 of the provincial government COVID-19 recovery process for more than a month, and the CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services is urging the community to remain vigilant amid the ongoing pandemic.

"First, I want to congratulate everyone on the precautionary measures you have taken so far," Carolyn Plummer wrote in an address to the community. "We have seen a relatively small number of COVID-19 positive cases in Haliburton County, and this is a direct result of your efforts to keep yourselves, your families, friends, and neighbours safe. Thank you for showing kindness and compassion to each other as you go about your daily lives, and for finding safe ways to enjoy the beauty of the Highlands this summer."

"With fall on the horizon, it is more important than ever that we continue to follow the public health measures that have been put in

place. This means continuing to physically distance from those not in your household or social bubble, wearing face masks when that distance cannot be maintained, frequent hand washing, staying home when you are feeling unwell, and seeking testing as soon as possible after possible exposure to the virus.

"COVID-19 has not gone away. It continues to circulate in our region and, likely, in our community. After so many months of keeping up with these important public health measures, it is only natural that some of us will be feeling tired and worn-out with it all. If this is true for you, I encourage you to visit www.haliburtoncares.ca and access some of the many options available to support your mental health.

"You are not alone and you play an incredibly important role in keeping yourself and our community safe."

Submitted



Through the clouds

Tammy Nash captured this view of Maple Lake on the morning of Aug. 25.



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT An electronic meeting will be held **Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** to consider these applications.

AND FURTHER THAT this meeting will be held through remote electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended by Bill 187, the Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 and an Order in Council of March 28, 2020, which amended the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and prohibits organized public events of more than five people.

The media and the general public can view the Land Division Committee meeting webcast via the County of Haliburton YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/B-9arZYz-aE>

AND FURTHER THAT these Applications for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

1. File No. H-011/20
Applicant: 2139353 Ontario Inc.
Location of the Property: Part of Lot 15, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, now in the Township of Minden Hills
Nature of the Application: To permit a lot addition to abutting lands
2. File No. H-013/20
Applicant: Estate of Ronald and Harriet Eckler
Location of the Property: Part of Lot 24 and 25, Concession 2, Geographic Township of McClintock, now in the Township of Algonquin Highlands
Nature of the Application: To create a new lot, together with an easement for driveway purposes
3. File No. H-014/20
Applicant: Cynthia Pun
Location of the Property: Part of Lot 11 and 12, Concession A, Geographic Township of Sherborne, now in the Township of Algonquin Highlands
Nature of the Application: To permit a lot addition to abutting lands
4. File No. H-015/20
Applicant: Lorne Heise
Location of the Property: Part of Lot 3, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Stanhope, now in the Township of Algonquin Highlands
Nature of the Application: To permit a lot addition to abutting lands

Additional information regarding the above applications is available for public inspection electronically by request during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills this 26th day of August, 2020.

Lisa Gillan
Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 248
Fax: (705) 286-4829
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Thrift Warehouse Haliburton is a social enterprise of SIRCH, and profits from the Warehouse are put towards the charitable programs of SIRCH.

We are looking for a Co-lead for the Haliburton location.

Working collaboratively with the other Store Lead, the Thrift Warehouse Co-Lead will be responsible for effective and efficient retail operation, including:

- put processes in place to maximize donations, sales and revenue
- ensure approved policies, processes and protocols are adhered to, and that the Warehouse is in compliance with municipal by-laws, SIRCH policies, professional/ ethical standards, health and safety standards
- guarantee exemplary customer service
- work collaboratively with the Bancroft Thrift Warehouse.

The Co-Lead will also:

- determine the priorities for each sales day
- assign staff to stations/positions within the Warehouse
- oversee and coach staff to ensure optimal outcomes
- partner effectively with SIRCH staff and businesses in the community
- look for opportunities to grow the business.

The Thrift Warehouse Haliburton Co-Lead answers directly to the Executive Director of SIRCH.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to info@sirch.on.ca.

Hours of work are Mon-Fri OR Tues - Sat, for 7 -7.5 hours. Rate of pay is \$19-21/hour. This is a permanent position with benefits.

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at 11:00 am at the HCSA Shop
171 Mallard Road Haliburton.
In the Industrial Park.

We will recap our financials, trail grant funded projects, grooming performance, other business, and elect a new Board of Directors.

Expressions of interest as an HCSA Volunteer or HCSA Director would be welcome. Covid 19 and social distancing protocols are in place.

Wearing a mask is mandatory.

For further info contact info@hcsa.ca Everyone welcome!

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MARSHALL, David George


Dave passed away peacefully at Southlake Regional Health Centre on August 18th, 2020 at the age of 69.

Dave is survived by his wife of 42 years, Pat, as well as his son, Stephen and his wife Rachel and step-son Shaun Gasko and his wife Carmela. Also survived by his sister, Sandra Legge and her husband, Mike and half-sister Debbie Warren and her husband, Paul. Proud Grandpa to Madison, William, Aaron, Lauren, Laina, Kaiya (2013) and Luke.

Dave enjoyed his career as a police officer with York Regional Police and various part-time jobs after retirement.

Due to COVID, there will be a private family service, with a celebration of life to follow when restrictions have lifted.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.ThompsonFH-Aurora.com for the Marshall family.



In Loving Memory of


**The Reverend
William "Tim" L. Sharpe**

Passed away peacefully at home in Minden on Thursday, August



Beloved husband of Betty for 56 years. Dear father of Kevin and his wife Lisa, Christopher (deceased) and his wife Beth, and Kim. Loving granddad to Kaitlyn, Laura and Lyndsie. Fondly remembered by his family and friends. Tim was an ordained minister for 56 years and Legion Padre for 10 years.

A Celebration of Tim's Life will take place at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the St. Paul's Anglican Church, Minden would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Monday, August 21, 1995

Infrastructure projects lost in budget cut limbo

by Andrew Milne

The fate of the infrastructure funding originally intended for the new county building remains uncertain.

County council voted January 18 to redirect the more than \$2 million in funding approved under the infrastructure program into other projects, retaining around \$750,000 for renovations and additions to the existing building. \$300,000 of this was to go to capital improvements to the county's Highland Crest extended care facility, and \$922,000 was to be made available to lower tier municipalities willing to put up money to match the grant.

Funding for the infrastructure projects comes from three sources — from the local government body proposing the project, the province and the federal government. Each body contributes one third.

The county was told, shortly after voting to redirect the money, that it, and the lower-tier (municipal) governments involved, would have to re-apply with details of the specific projects to which the money would be directed. They did so, but these new applications had to be approved all over again by the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA) and Industry Canada, the federal body which approves the projects.

Both the federal and provincial governments — the Chretien government in Febru-

ary and the Harris government in August — have since cut money from this year's expenditures on infrastructure, saying they wish to spread the money out over a few years to ease their tightening budgets.

A source from the MMA, contacted August 11, could not say what would happen to the Haliburton County projects.

Said Scott Thompson of the MMA, "There are a lot of projects — and Haliburton County is certainly one of those caught up in this — that we have sent forward to the federal government for their co-approval and we are waiting for that situation to resolve itself. I know they are hesitant to approve projects given their fiscal situation."

Thompson would not however confirm whether the province considered the projects worthy. Formal approval, he would only say, requires a green light from both governments. He did say however that he didn't feel the \$73 million cut to the funding available this year (and spread into the following years) would affect projects already at the stage of those proposed here.

"We're quite confident," he said, "that the reduction won't cause any problems for this fiscal year for claims coming in — that for the remaining years of the program we can work out a cash flow. Projects that were

(more on page 2)

Jarret Rowden was one of the hits of this year's Haliburton County Fall Fair Parade, travelling the complete distance on his unicycle. The judges were so impressed with his wheeling, that they immediately created a new category so he could be rewarded for his effort.

(A complete report on this year's fair, with prize winners and more photos, will appear in the August 28 edition of The Times.)

Where there is smoke, there may not be fire

Haliburton County residents who notice an odour of smoke in the air, may be smelling the results of fires burning in northern Ontario, according to a representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Gerry Spray, a Fire response officer based at the Haliburton fire operations base said on Friday his office has received a number of calls from individuals who report smelling the odour of smoke. "We have had a number of reports from throughout our coverage area during the past few days and have fortunately been unable to trace the smell to anything burning in the area where it

was reported, Spray commented.

The reports were so persistent that a helicopter was used to attempt to spot any sources of the smoke and none could be found. Spray said it was not unusual with the type of weather we have been experiencing and the number of fires burning in northern Ontario for smoke from the fires to be carried high into the atmosphere and then slowly descend to ground level far from the sources. Spray suggested it was likely this occurrence that was causing concern among residents. He said reports had been received from throughout their coverage area stretching from Bracebridge to

Pembroke, including a number of calls from local residents.

While the air search helped to assure firefighters there were no fires in the immediate area, it also confirmed that the smoke was drifting down from the north. He said the pilots and spotters who went aloft could see the bands of smoke drifting south.

The fire danger in northern Ontario has been described as critical with much of the area above North Bay designated as a restricted fire zone. All burning has been banned and in some cases travel in the forest has been restricted.

Locally, Spray said all fire permits

have been cancelled, although campfire are still being allowed.

Regular fire crews from this area have been shifted to Hearst, Cochrane and far western Ontario to assist in the fire fighting efforts. Auxiliary crews are on stand-by here. Spray said fortunately there had only been a few small fires reported during the past week and very little lightning activity. However he sought the co-operation of the public in ensuring all fires are extinguished completely. Spray did not anticipate any change in the fire danger rating heading

(more on page 5)

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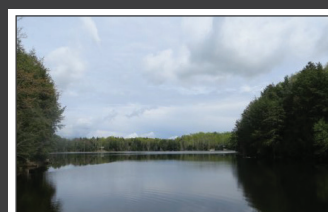
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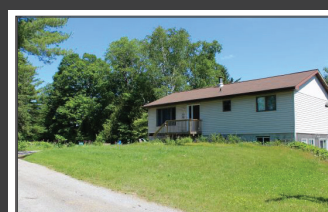
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